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Attorney for Applicants

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.	:	10/781,368	Confirmation No.: 2773
Applicant	:	Krista Nash et al.	
Title	:	VIBRATION DAMPER GASKET	
Filed	:	February 18, 2004	
TC/A.U.	:	3616	
Examiner	:	(not yet assigned)	
Docket No.	:	14318	

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement disclosing information which has come to the attention of applicants and/or their attorneys and is being submitted so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), the enclosed Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-identified application or before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits.

Neither applicants nor their attorneys make any representation that any information disclosed herein may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103. Moreover, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or as an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, transmitted herewith are:

1. A completed copy of Form PTO/SB/08a "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant" listing the patents, publications and other information being submitted for consideration; and
2. A legible copy of each patent, publication and other item of information in written form listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08a, except for copies of U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications which are not required for applications filed after June 30, 2003.

As this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08a are not required and, therefore, not included herewith.

NON-ENGLISH INFORMATION

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, following is a concise explanation of the relevance (as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information), of each listed patent, publication or other information that is not in the English language:

1. European Patent Application No. EP 1 136 328 published September 26, 2001 discloses: The airbag gas generator has a membrane connecting the outer wall to the airbag housing and by one edge is connected directly to the outer wall. The membrane has the shape of a truncated cone. The membrane over a section used for connecting to the outer wall of the gas generator is constructed cylindrically on its inner side. This section has an increased wall thickness and is in the form of a ring which on the outer side has shock absorbing protrusions.
2. German Patent Application No. DE 100 02 480 published August 2, 2001 discloses: The gas generator used as a vibration damping device is jointed to the airbag housing via a ring-shaped adaptor sheet with at least three rubber webs.
3. European Patent Application No. EP 1 101 663 published May 23, 2001 discloses: The resilient section includes circumferentially-distributed impact-damping, resilient projections. On exceeding the free oscillation path these cause defined braking of the oscillation mass.

4. European Patent Application No. EP 1 101 662 published May 23, 2001 discloses: The gas generator is connected gas tight with the air bag casing via an insert with an annular rubber membrane running along the steering wheel axis.
5. European Patent Application No. 1 065 110 published January 3, 2001 discloses: An airbag module consisting of an airbag container is inserted in the center part of a steering wheel with an airbag and a gas generator. The airbag has a vibration damper whose inertial mass is formed by the gas generator that is installed within the airbag container and held by flexible connectors but with some movement.
6. German Patent Application No. DE 199 13 120 published September 28, 2000 discloses: The invention relates to a vehicle steering wheel which has an airbag module. Said airbag module or at least its gas generator is elastically mounted on the steering wheel so that the unwanted vibrations that are produced on the steering wheel when the vehicle is in operation can be dampened. To this end, the elasticity of the springs and the mass of the gas generator or the other, lighter parts of the airbag module are co-ordinated in such a way that the resonance frequency of the resulting damping system lies within the range of the steering wheel vibrations in which the unwanted vibrations are situated.
7. German Patent Application No. DE 199 08916 published September 14, 2000 discloses: The vibration absorber is integrated into the steering wheel. It includes an absorption mass, which is elastically connected to the fixing body by at least one spring element. The fixing body at least partly envelops the absorption mass like a cage. It is designed to be a precaution against the absorption mass being lost.
8. German Patent Application No. DE 199 08 915 published September 14, 2001 discloses: The inertia mass of the vibration shock absorber is formed by the gas generator of the airbag which is connected to the airbag housing by a gas-impermeable spring element which engages round its outside wall and is fixed thereon. The spring element is made of elastomer material and is cylindrical with its one edge fixed radially inside on the generator and its other edge on the airbag housing.
9. European Patent Application No. EP 1 026 050 published August 9, 2000 discloses: The airbag unit comprises an annular mounting sheet metal which is arranged on the generator carrier. A circular mounting flange is connected to the housing of the gas generator. A mounting cylinder is arranged parallel to the steering wheel axle. The cylinder is made of an elastic material, having free edges which are connected, at one side with the mounting sheet metal, and at its other side with the mounting flange.
10. European Patent Application No. EP 1 020 332 published July 19, 2000 discloses: The invention relates to an airbag module for motor vehicles comprising a housing for an inflatable airbag and a gas generator, with the gas generator and the housing being movable independently of one another for reduction and isolation of vibration and for ease of horn actuation.
11. European Patent Application No. EP 1 010 589 published June 21, 2001 discloses: The gas generator and the housing are movable independent of each other. The gas generator is connected with a base element, which is fixable at the motor vehicle, pref. at a

steering wheel unit, esp. lockable. The gas generator serves as a vibration damper. For the connecting of the gas generator with a base element, at least one pref. elastic and-or vibration damping coupling element is provided.

12. European Patent Application No. EP 0 994 793 published April 26, 2000 discloses: A steering wheel has an airbag module and a separate cap covering the airbag module. The airbag module is connected to a skeleton or hub of the steering wheel using a plurality of vibration damping elements to isolate the airbag module from the hub. The cap, on the other hand has no vibration damping element. As the cap is directly linked to the hub, it oscillates with the hub and the components attached thereto so that no relative movement therebetween exists.

13. German Patent Application No. DE 196 53 684 published June 18, 1998 discloses: The arrangement has at least one fastening element, which is provided for the airbag unit. The fastening element is attached to the steering wheel on at least one fixing point. The fastening element is attached on an elastically deformable guide element perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the steering column. The guide element may be an elastically deformable bush, which is installed on a fastening screw. The bush is made of materials of different stiffness, and may be electrically insulating. The bush has an upper section of hard material, which is opposite the screw head and is connected to the fastening element. There is a free space between the screw shaft and the upper section. The bush has a lower elastically deformable section. The part of the lower section near the upper section is designed with a free space next to the screw shaft near the upper section. The lower part of the lower section lies against the screw shaft.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 17, 2004

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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 1 Of 2		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/781,368
		Filing Date	February 18, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Krista Nash
		Group Art Unit	3616
		Examiner Name	
		Attorney Docket Number	14318

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
	U1	US-6,592,141	07/15/2003	Dancasius et al.	
	U2	US-6,464,247	10/15/2002	Laue	
	U3	US-6,439,599	08/27/2002	Laue et al.	
	U4	US-6,435,540	08/20/2002	Dürre	
	U5	US-6,398,255	06/04/2002	Scherzinger et al.	
	U6	US-6,361,065	03/26/2002	Frisch	
	U7	US-6,354,622	03/12/2002	Ulbrich et al.	
	U8	US-6,325,411	12/04/2001	Rigner et al.	
	U9	US-6,296,416	10/02/2001	Oreans et al.	
	U10	US-6,164,689	12/26/2000	Rivin et al.	
	U11	US-2004/0012177	01/22/2004	Sauer	
	U12	US-2004/0004345	01/08/2004	Kayser	
	U13	US-2003/0038462	02/27/2003	Leibach et al.	
	U14	US-2002/0175500	11/28/2002	Heindl	
	U15	US-2002/0140212	10/03/2002	Hauer	
	U16	US-2002/0125084	09/12/2002	Kreuzer et al.	
	U17	US-2002/0092699	07/18/2002	Worrell et al.	
	U18	US-2002/0008362	01/24/2002	Ashtiani et al.	
	U19	US-2001/0048216	12/06/2001	Varcus et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	† ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	F1	EP - 1 136 328	09/26/2001	Freude nberg Carl FA		
	F2	DE - 100 02 480	08/02/2001	Freude nberg Carl FA		
	F3	EP - 1 101 663	05/23/2001	Freude nberg Carl FA		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ² Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³ See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ⁴ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁷ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> Sheet 2 Of 2		Complete if Known	
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		Filing Date	February 18, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Krista Nash
		Group Art Unit	3616
		Examiner Name	
		Attorney Docket Number	14318

	F4	EP - 1 101 662	05/23/2001	Freude nberg Carl FA		
	F5	EP - 1 065 110	01/03/2001	Freude nberg Carl FA		
	F6	DE - 199 13 120	09/28/2000	W olf Woco & Co. Franz J		
	F7	DE - 199 08 916	09/14/2000	Freude nberg Carl FA		
	F8	DE - 199 08 915	09/14/2000	Freude nberg Carl FA		
	F9	EP - 1 026 050	08/09/2000	TR W Automotive Safety Systems GMBH		
	F10	EP - 1 020 332	07/19/2000	Delphi Te ch Inc		
	F11	EP - 1 010 589	06/21/2000	Delphi Te ch Inc		
	F12	EP - 0 994 793	04/26/2000	Petri AG		
	F13	DE - 196 53 684	06/18/1998	Petri AG		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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